

**BLACK
WOMEN
ORGANIZED
FOR ACTION**

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 15072
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115

June 26, 1975

Hon. Joseph Alioto
Mayor
City Hall
San Francisco, Ca. 94102

Dear Mayor Alioto:

Black Women Organized for Action has followed the progress of the Fair Housing Ordinance related to housing opportunities for families with children with great interest. We were very pleased with the positive action taken by the Board of Supervisors on June 16 and June 23 when they passed the ordinance prohibiting discrimination against such families---and by an overwhelming vote.

The Supervisors' action takes note of the tremendous problems faced by families with children---regardless of their income---in finding suitable housing in the city. It would be a grave error for San Francisco to get the image of a city in which it is unsafe to bring up children. The arguments raised by the opponents of the ordinance seem to stress that possibility. Cities are the great centers of civilization and children are a part of the civilizing aspect of cities. They require us to remember to provide green spaces, parks, playgrounds, bicycle paths, and safe transit when we might otherwise approach the city as simply a place to work. Children help to humanize the environment.

Some have suggested that the new ordinance is an invitation to rent gouging---encouraging landlords to charge on a per capita basis for housing. We hardly think that likely, but if such an effort were to be made, there are ample ways of nipping it in the bud. San Francisco residents will not sit still for that approach; there are many residences which are "underoccupied" in the sense that one or two persons may be living in two and three bedroom apartments; if the per capita argument is carried out, many of these people would immediately petition for substantial rent reductions. The argument that hotels "do it" hardly holds water because while it is true that occupancy by more than one adult frequently changes the hotel room price, it is common practice in hotels not to charge for children when accompanied by adults.

As a person who grew up in San Francisco, we are sure you understand the value of a city with people of all age groups, and we hope we can count on your signing the Fair Housing for Children ordinance promptly. We certainly urge you to do so.

For Black Women Organized for Action, we are sincerely yours,

Ahimsa Sumchai
AHIMSA SUMCHAI

Betty McEady
BETTY MCEADY

Edith Turnipseed
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